

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF BUDGET MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL
GIORGIO RUFFOLO

REF: STATE 201090

1. DR. GIORGIO RUFFOLO IS SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE MINISTRY
OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING. BORN IN ROME ON AUGUST 14,
1926, OF CALABRIAN PARENTS, RUFFOLO GRADUATED IN LAW SUMMA
CUM LAUDE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME IN 1947. HE HAS BEEN
A MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST (PSI) PARTY SINCE 1946. A LAWYER
BY TRAINING AND ECONOMIST BY PROFESSION IN THE PERIOD 1948-
1954 HE WORKED IN THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF THE BANCA
NAZIONALE DEL LAVORO AND FROM 1955-1957 WITH THE OECD IN PARIS.
IN 1958 HE WAS APPOINTED TO HEAD THE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ENI (NATIONAL HYDROCARBONS AGENCY)
WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL 1962. FROM 1962-1969 RUFFOLO WORKED
IN THE RESEARCH OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF THE BUDGET
MAINLY ON ECONOMIC PLANNING BUT RESIGNED IN 1969
BECAUSE OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITH
THEN-BUDGET MINISTER LUIGI PRET. RUFFOLO WORKED AS A
CONSULTANT FOR THE BANCO DI ROMA FROM 1969-

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1970. HE REJOINED THE BUDGET MINISTRY IN 1970 AS SECRETARY

GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING - A JOB HE HAS HELD SINCE.
(THIS IS THE HIGHEST CIVIL SERVICE JOB IN THE GOVERNMENT'S
PLANNING STRUCTURE.) RUFFOLO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF ISPE
(INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING)(A SEMI-PUBLIC ECONOMIC RESEARCH
INSTITUTE.)

2. RUFFOLO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC
PLANNING AND PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN DRAFTING OF ITALY'S
FIRST FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1965-1969). HE BELIEVES STRONGLY
IN THE NEED FOR SOCIAL REFORM IN ITALY AND IN THE PAST
HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN ON REFORMS AND ON OTHER SUBJECTS
RELATED TO ECONOMIC PLANNING. HIS FRANK MANNER AT TIMES
IN THE PAST HAS EARNED HIM A REPUTATION AMONG BUREAUCRATS
OF BEING A "NON-GOVERNMENT" MAN AND A SOMEWHAT CONTROVERSIAL
FIGURE WITHIN THE MINISTRY. IN APRIL 1973, RUFFOLO
PUBLISHED A STUDY ENTITLED "REPORT ON EXPERIENCES IN
ECONOMIC PLANNING" WHICH WAS IN PART AN APOLOGIA FOR THE
FAILURE OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AS AN ECONOMIC TOOL IN ITALY,
AND IN PART TO CALL TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC
PLANNING WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY (SEE ROME A-197
DATED APRIL 6, 1973).

3. RUFFOLO IS MARRIED, HAS TWO CHILDREN, AND REPORTEDLY
LAST TRAVELED IN THE U.S. IN 1962. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH
IS DESCRIBED AS "FAIR" AND HE ALSO SPEAKS FRENCH.
RUFFOLO REPORTEDLY IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS
THE U.S. AND IS DESCRIBED AS BEING "WESTERN ORIENTED".

4. EMBASSY ADVISED BY BUDGET MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE
THAT RUFFOLO TRIP TO U.S. "SEMI-PRIVATE" IN NATURE. HE
IS TRAVELING WITH WIFE AND PLANS VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C.
AND SAN FRANCISCO. NOTE THAT HE NO LONGER PLANNING TO VISIT
NEW YORK. IN LINE WITH HIS PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OUTLINED
PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 ABOVE, RUFFOLO WISHES DISCUSS WITH U.S.
OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON SUBJECT OF ECONOMIC PLANNING WITH
SOME EMPHASIS ON STATISTICAL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC PLANNING.
ALSO WISHES DISCUSS BROAD RANGE OF ECONOMIC SUBJECTS AND
GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, AGAIN WITH EMPHASIS ON
ECONOMIC PLANNING.

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5. PER QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL WE ADVISED BY BUDGET
MINISTRY REP THAT BECAUSE OF TRAVEL SCHEDULING PROBLEMS
RUFFOLO NO LONGER, RPT, NO LONGER ABLE TO MEET WITH JOHN R.
MEYER, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH
IN NEW YORK. RUFFOLO NOW WISHES MEET IN WASHINGTON WITH
ASH, STEIN AND JOHN MILLER, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING
ASSOCIATION ON MORNINGS, RPT ON MORNINGS OF 17TH AND 18TH.
RUFFOLO PLANNING DEPART WASHINGTON FOR SAN FRANCISCO ON

AFTERNOON OF 18TH.

6. RUFFOLO WILL BE STAYING AT STATLER-HILTON IN WASHINGTON.
WHILE HE SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH, RUFFOLO HAS, RPT , HAS
REQUESTED SERVICES OF INTERPRETER. VOLPE

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